Administration of Criminal Justice in Mysore during 1932-33.

READ—

Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Mysore, for the year 1932-33, received from the Registrar, High Court of Mysore, with his letter No. P. 37 of 1932-33, dated 6th November 1933.

ORDER NO. P. 3230-38—CTS. 104-33-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 8—9TH JANUARY 1934.

Recorded.

Number of Courts.—The number of courts that exercised original jurisdiction on the last day of the year under review was 72, consisting of 4 Sessions Judges, 4 Assistant Sessions Judges, 8 District Magistrates, 23 First Class Magistrates, 10 Second Class Magistrates and 23 Benches of Honorary Magistrates. The temporary additional District and Sessions Court, Bangalore, was continued till the vacation of 1934. The Special Second Class Magistrate's Court at Tarikere which had been temporarily abolished was revived from the 25th March 1933, as the work of the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Narasimharajpura had become highly congested. The file of the Special Magistrate's Court at Mandya having become heavy, an additional Magistrate's Court was sanctioned for that place temporarily for six months.

Offences Reported.—The total number of offences reported was 27,096 against 23,716 in the previous year, but the number of offences returned as true fell from 22,694 to 21,126. Including 11,134 persons remaining under trial at the close of the previous year, the total number of persons brought to trial was 46,291 against 43,159 in the previous year. Of these, the cases of 35,823 against those of 32,025 in the previous year were disposed of, the percentage being 77·3 against 74 in the previous year. There has thus been a slight improvement in the number of disposals in spite of an increase in the number of persons brought to trial. The total number of persons convicted was 14,951 and of those acquitted or discharged 18,833, the respective percentages being 41·6 and 52·4 against 36·7 and 60·06 in the previous year. At the close of the year, the cases of 10,460 were left pending. No sentence of death was passed during the year. The percentage of the number of persons awarded short terms of imprisonment fell from 31·4 to 24·2. The provisions of Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, continued to be used to an appreciable extent, the number dealt with thereunder being 307 against 304 in 1931-32. Of those so dealt with, 18 were Juvenile Offenders. The number of persons imprisoned in default of furnishing security for keeping the peace or for good behaviour was 20 against 11 in the previous year.

Bench Court.—The disposals in Bench Courts were 82·6 per cent of the number for disposal. The system of appointing ladies as Honorary Magistrates continues to be tried in Bangalore, Mysore and Hassan. Six Bench Courts were abolished during the year. The average duration of cases disposed of rose from 54·4 to 66·1 days. It is hoped that every effort will be made to reduce the duration of pendency of cases by such courts.

Stipendiary Magistrates.—Disposal by stipendiary Magistrates was 82·7 per cent of the number of cases before them. The number of persons involved in the cases disposed of, was 24,531 against 22,688 in the previous year. Cases involving 7,713 persons were left pending as against 8,711 persons in the previous year. The average duration of cases disposed of by these Magistrates fell appreciably from 70·1 to 52·6. This is satisfactory, but there is room for further improvement in this respect, and every effort should be made to further reduce the pendency especially of old cases. Government desire that information regarding the number of cases pending for over six months be furnished in future reports. It is hoped that the special instructions issued by the High Court in the direction of reducing the pendency of old cases will have the desired result.

The system of giving magisterial work to Munsiffs and civil work to Magistrates wherever possible and civil appellate work to selected First Class Magistrates of the status of Subordinate Judges continues and is reported to be working satisfactorily.

Itinerations were greatly reduced during the year, partly on financial and

would lead to a prompt and economic administration of Criminal Justice. It is reported to Government, however, that this anticipation has not been realised. Government request the High Court to go into the question and favour them with their opinion.

District Magistrates.—The District Magistrates have disposed of 24 cases out of 29 for disposal and the average duration of cases disposed of by them was 66·7 days as against 81·7 in the previous year.

Witnesses.—More than 82 per cent of the witnesses who appeared before the Courts of Magistrates were examined, the actual number being 47,242 out of 57,029. The corresponding percentage last year was 74·5. No witnesses were detained for over three days.

Sessions Work.—Including eight cases involving nine persons pending from the previous year, there were 111 cases involving 229 persons for disposal. Of these, 94 cases involving 186 persons against 80 cases involving 169 persons in the previous year were disposed of leaving 17 cases involving 43 persons pending at the end of the year. The average duration of Sessions cases was 40·3 days as against 36·9 days in the year 1931-32. The total number of witnesses examined was 1,415 as against 1,443 in the previous year. The number of witnesses detained for over three days was 179. The number of cases tried by jury was six against seven in the previous year. In all those cases the judges agreed with the verdict of the jury.

Appellate Work.—Out of the appeals of 1,155 persons for disposal before Magistrates and Sessions Judges, those of 892 persons were disposed of, 320 by Magistrates and 572 by Sessions Judges. District Magistrates disposed of 163 appeals. The average duration of appeals disposed of by Sessions Judges fell appreciably from 94·3 days to 75·7 days and that in the Courts of Magistrates also fell from 41·2 days to 37·7 days.

High Court.—Including 34 appeals pending from the previous year, the total number of appeals for disposal was 90 against 79 in the previous year. Of these, 47 were disposed of leaving 43 pending. In 17 appeals or 39·5 per cent the decisions of the lower courts were interfered with. Out of 43 appeals pending at the end of the year as many as 22 were filed since March 1933 and the intervention of the annual vacation necessarily delayed the disposal of these appeals. The average duration of appeals disposed of was 149·83 as against 155·57 in the previous year. There were 42 revision cases and 652 revision petitions for disposal, of which 25 revision cases and 394 revision petitions as against 37 and 275 in the previous year were disposed of. The decisions of the Lower Courts were interfered with in 68 per cent of the revision cases and 21·5 per cent of the revision petitions.

Inspections.—The judges of the High Court inspected 12 courts, the inspections being restricted to the courts which had not been inspected in the previous year.

The District Magistrates inspected almost all the courts in their jurisdiction.

Government are glad to note that the administration of Criminal Justice during the year was satisfactory and that there has been appreciable improvement in the work of most of the courts.

R. RANGA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Working of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1932-33.

READ—

Letter No. Per. 25 of 1933-34, dated 21st November 1933, from the Director of Agriculture, submitting the annual report of the Agricultural Department for 1932-33.

ORDER NO. D. 3105-25—A. & E. 137-33-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 30TH DECEMBER 1933.

Recorded.

Dr. Coleman was in charge of the Department during the year except for two months and twenty-nine days when Mr. H. V. Krishnayya, Deputy Director of Agriculture at Headquarters acted for him.